

patriotic American, Van Michael, passed away at the age of 82.

Van was a longtime friend and supporter of both me and my late father.

He was a lawyer, successful businessman, and served as City Judge for Sweetwater, Tennessee.

He also enjoyed his work in Washington as the lobbyist for the National Christmas Tree Growers Association.

Van was the primary developer of a popular Tennessee tourist attraction called the Lost Sea, an amazing body of water in an underground cavern in Monroe County.

I still remember riding in a boat with my dad at the Grand Opening of the Lost Sea.

He also was a leader in bringing about Cherohala Skyway, one of the Nation's most beautiful scenic highways.

Van was a very well-informed conservative with strong views on the great issues of the day.

As Sweetwater Mayor Doyle Lowe said, "Sweetwater and the County will miss him. He was a large part of the community."

Van Michael touched thousands of lives in good and positive ways. This Country is a better place because of the life he led.

I would like to include in the RECORD the following article about Van Michael from the Monroe County newspaper The Advocate & Democrat.

[From the Advocate and Democrat, Oct. 15, 2017]

LOST SEA DEVELOPER VAN MICHAEL DIES AT 82

(By Michael Thomas)

A man who helped bring The Lost Sea to prominence among many other life accomplishments died Oct. 11 at the age of 82.

Van Reeves Michael was known for a lot of things throughout his long life, but it was his part in the development of the former Craighead Caverns into the Lost Sea that will mark his legacy.

"I can't think of anyone that knows more about The Lost Sea than him," said Lisa McClung, director of The Lost Sea. "I used to get him to come out and talk to the new tour guides and share some of the history of it with them so they would know it firsthand. He was a wonderful person. He stopped by to see us frequently and tell us stories about The Lost Sea. I can't believe he's gone. We will definitely miss him."

McClung said she did not know anyone who loved The Lost Sea more than Van Michael.

"He was passionate about it becoming an attraction and he worked relentlessly in the early 60s to get it open," she said. "He kept on and on until he was able to see it become reality. He said he would stand on Main Street and count the car tags of people who were coming through going to Chattanooga or Knoxville and he knew if it were open to the public, they would stop and see it."

In a story commemorating the 50th anniversary of The Lost Sea, Michael said, "It was called the 'Lake Room' until 1965. People had come and gone in the cavern before that, but only a few had actually seen the big room with the cave. Nobody in Sweetwater believed it existed."

According to family members, Michael was also instrumental in helping bring the Cherohala Skyway into existence, something his father, W.E. Michael, helped start.

Michael was also well known in the City of Sweetwater, where his law office was known as the "Michael and Michael building."

"Everybody knew that building on Oak Street," Sweetwater Mayor Doyle Lowe said. "I hated to hear that Van had died. He was

quite a character. He always had a joke ready and a lot of times, he would make your day. We were friends for more than 40 years and he was always encouraging, always thinking of ways to make things better."

"Sweetwater, and the county, will miss him," Lowe added. "He was a large part of the community."

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, W.E. Michael and Claudia Francis Michael, and son Richard Michael. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Margaret (Peg) Bowland Michael, his daughter and son-in-law, Teresa Michael Glasgow and Steven Glasgow of Franklin, and his grandchildren, Carson and Campbell Glasgow.

He was a 1952 graduate of Tennessee Military Institute. He went on to receive his bachelor and law degrees from Cumberland University and practiced law in Sweetwater for 57 years at Michael and Michael Attys.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) ERIC C. NEWMAN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi Army Sergeant (SGT) Eric C. Newman, who gave his life while in service to our nation on October 14, 2010, during Operation Enduring Freedom. SGT Newman was killed when enemy combatants attacked his unit in Akatzai Kalay, Afghanistan. SGT Newman was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

SGT Newman, a Waynesboro, Mississippi native, graduated from Wayne County High School. SGT Newman worked for the Waynesboro Police Department several years before joining the Army in 2006.

According to the Associated Press, Waynesboro Police Chief James Bunch said, "SGT Newman was an outstanding individual. It didn't surprise me at all that he would sacrifice himself for his country."

SGT Newman's funeral was held at Freeman Funeral Home in Waynesboro. He was buried at Hebron Cemetery, located in Wayne County, Mississippi.

SGT Newman was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantrymans Badge and the Parachute Badge.

SGT Newman is survived by his wife, Charidy Newman; mother, Dianne Newman; stepdaughter, Larissa Leigh; grandmother, Rowena Loper; grandmother, Jolene Newman; uncle, Michael Earl Newman; aunt, Sandra Newman; and sister, Kimberly Delbosco.

SGT Newman proudly served our nation to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. His service will always be remembered.

A TRIBUTE TO DAMIAN BELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Damian Bell of Pleasant Hill, Iowa for being honored with the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for the role he played in saving the life of Richard Rauzi.

Richard was snowshoeing and taking photographs on Lake Ahquabi on February 14, 2016, when he fell through the ice trying to rescue a goose frozen in the slush. Damian, his friend Jesse Bannor, and their sons were ice fishing in a local shack. Damian's son, Konnor, heard Richard yelling for help, and the two men raced to the rescue. Using a nearby canoe, Damian made his way over to Richard. Unable to pull him aboard, and with the canoe threatening to tip over, Damian secured Richard to the boat with a rope, then stepped onto the ice and attempted to pull Richard from the water before firefighters arrived on scene to help in the efforts. Even though he had been in the water for 40 minutes on a 15 degree day, Richard survived after two days with extreme hypothermia.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Damian Bell for his courage and heroic actions in helping to save the life of Richard Rauzi. It is humbling to know that there are people like Damian who are willing to risk their own lives to save the life of another. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Damian on receiving this esteemed designation and in wishing him nothing but the best.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND LIFE OF SGT. FRED CUARESMA YURONG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of U.S. Army Sergeant Fred Cuaresma Yurong. Following the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor, Fred answered President Roosevelt's call to service and joined the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment. He went on to serve in both New Guinea and the Philippines during WWII. During this time, Fred served with distinction, reaching the rank of Sergeant and displayed a level of commitment to serving others that would show throughout the rest of his life.

Out of the 250,000 Filipino soldiers who served during World War II, Sergeant Yurong was one of the few to be granted citizenship in a mass naturalization ceremony held in Camp Beale on March 20, 1943.

Upon completion of his service, Sergeant Yurong married his wife in the Philippines before relocating back to California and raising a family of five children. He continued his service to the community through his active involvement in the American Legion and several Filipino organizations in Stockton, California. His contributions speak to the testament of our country's servicemen and women selfless commitment to serve our communities. While